

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14824 01 OF 02 121757Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----034022 121804Z /46  
R 121749Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0201

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 14824

NODIS

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR EG US  
SUBJ: MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARY TO SADAT -- SINAI II  
AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 144829

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH SADAT, JUNE 11, I CONVEYED SECRETARY'S ORAL MESSAGES. CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS SPENT ON SINAI II AGREEMENT. I POINTED OUT PROBLEMS WHICH SADAT'S FREQUENT PUBLIC REFERENCES TO OCTOBER EXPIRY DATE POSES FOR ADMINISTRATION, NOTING AGREEMENT SPECIFIES IT REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER. SADAT AGREED SINAI II DOES NOT LEGALLY EXPRE UNTIL SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER AGREEMENT. HE DESCRIBED HIS PUBLIC REFERENCE TO OCTOBER DEADLINE AS "HARRASSING" TACTICS WITH ISRAELIS. LATTER, HE CHARGED, ARE SEEKING DRAG THINGS OUT. IF WE HAVE SUGGESTION ON OTHER WAYS TO PUT ACROSS TO ISRAELIS THAT TIME IS NOT UNLIMITED, HE WOULD WELCOME HEARING THEM. HE SUGGESTED USG MAKE PUBLIC ITS VIEW THAT SINAI II DOES NOT TERMINATE UNTIL SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER AGREEMENT. ON RENEWAL OF UNEF, SADAT INSISTED THAT HIS OBLIGATION TO DO SO EXTENDS ONLY TO OCTOBER 1978, AND THAT THIS IS CONSIDERABLE

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TENT WITH HIS COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT FORD. MFA LEGAL STAFF HAD RECENTLY STUDIED DOCUMENTS AND REAFFIRMED THIS. I URGED THAT HE READ LETTER AGAIN. SADAT SAID WE SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED. HE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NOT EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HE WILL DO IF BY OCTOBER THERE IS NO PROGRESS ON PEACE FRONT, BUT INSISTED HE WILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH SADAT YESTERDAY IN ALEXANDRIA AT WHICH VP MUBARAK WAS ALSO PRESENT), I READ HIM THE SECRETARY'S ORAL MESSAGE CONTAINED PARA 1 REFTTEL. SADAT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

2. I THEN SAID I HAD ANOTHER MATTER TO RAISE WITH HIM IN SPIRIT OF CANDOR THAT CHARACTERIZES OUR RELATIONS. THIS WAS QUESTION OF THE DURATION OF SINAI II. I NOTED THE PRESIDENT HAS FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO OCTOBER 1978 AS THE EXPIRY DATE FOR THAT AGREEMENT. TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US ON THIS MATTER, I HAD TO TELL HIM IN ALL FRANKNESS THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SINAI II IS THAT IT REMAINS IN FORCE UNTIL SUPERCEDED BY A NEW AGREEMENT. WHILE WE APPRECIATE SADAT'S IMPATIENCE WITH SLOW PROGRESS OF PEACE EFFORT, AND SHARE HIS VIEW THAT THERE MUST SOON BE SOME REAL MOVEMENT, HIS FREQUENT PUBLIC REFERENCES TO OCTOBER EXPIRY DATE FOR SINAI II CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO HIM ON THE PEACE FRONT. SUCH PUBLIC DEADLINE REFERENCES GIVE THE ISRAELIS OPPORTUNITIES TO CRITICISE EGYPTIAN POSITIONS AND, IN OUR JUDGMENT, DO NOT SERVE EGYPT'S BEST INTERESTS. ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ARE BOUND TO SEE SUCH STATEMENTS AS PRESSURE TACTICS. AS SUCH, THEY ARE GRIST FOR MILL OF ISRAELI HARDLINERS. WE KNEW SADAT ALSO HAS AN ARAB AUDIENCE WHICH HE MUST BEAR IN MIND IN CONNECTION  
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WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS THAT TIME IS NOT UNLIMITED IN PEACE PROCESS.

3. SADAT LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND THEN RECALLED THAT I HAD TWICE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED MATTER TO HIM. HE POINTEDLY NOTED THAT NO ONE ELSE HAD DONE SO. I ASSURED HIM THAT I WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS. I KNEW THAT THESE DEADLINE REFERENCES HAVE FOR SOME TIME TROUBLED WASHINGTON. IT WAS FELT THAT I SHOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH HIM IN ORDER TO AVOID MAGNIFYING THE ISSUE. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND LANGUIGLY COMMENTED THAT THAT IS WHAT AMBASSADORS ARE FOR.

4. SADAT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE AGREES SINAI II DOES NOT LEGALLY EXPIRE UNTIL SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER AGREEMENT. HIS FREQUENT REFERENCES TO THE OCTOBER EXPIRY DATE, HE ADMITTED, WERE AND ARE INTENDED AS - "HARRASSING" TACTIC WITH THE ISRAELIS. THE ISRAELIS, HE CHARGED, ARE PLAYING FOR TIME AND SOME WAY HAS TO BE FOUND TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEY CANNOT DRAG THINGS OUT INDEFINITELY AS HE IS CONVINCED THEY WANT TO DO. HE NOTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO PUT ACROSS THE POINT THAT TIME IS NOT UNLIMITED. DID WE HAVE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS? IF SO, HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THEM AND WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER WHATEVER IDEAS WE MIGHT WISH TO OFFER ON OTHER WAYS TO PUT THE POINT ACROSS TO THE ISRAELIS.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 8, LINE 2 GARBLED)

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

5. SADAT NOTED THAT IT WOULD GIVE HIM NO RPT NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER IF USG TOOK APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS VIEW THAT SINAI II DOES NOT TERMINATE UNTIL SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER AGREEMENT. IN FACT, HE SEEMED TO FAVOR SUCH A STATEMENT ON OUR PART.

6. ASIDE FROM THE DURATION OF SINAI II, SADAT CONTENTED THAT HIS COMMITMENT TO RENEW UNEF IS LIMITED TO THREE YEARS. HE FIRST SAID THIS IN THE LETTER THAT HE HAD SIGNED TO PRESIDENT FORD. (NOTE: I RECALL THAT WHEN SADAT SAW SEPTEMBER 1 LETTER ON DAY OF SIGNING, HE INITIALLY DEMURRED, SAYING THIS WAS NOT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF HIS COMMITMENT. FAHMY INTERVENED IN ARABIC TO SAY IT DID NOT MATTER AND THAT SADAT RETAINED THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHEN UNEF MANDATE SHOULD BE TERMINATED. ON THIS BASIS, SADAT SIGNED.) I POINTED OUT TO SADAT THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HIS COMMITMENT IN THE SEPTEMBER 1 LETTER IS THAT HE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EXTEND UNEF ANNUALLY FOR DURATION OF AGREEMENT, WHICH IN EFFECT MEANS UNTIL SINAI II IS SUPERCEDED BY A NEW AGREEMENT. THE MATTER OF TWO UNEF RENEWALS APPLIES ONLY IF UNSC,

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BECAUSE OF ACTION OF THIRD STATE, FAILS TO RENEW UNEF.

7. SADAT HAD CLEARLY NOT LOOKED AT THE DOCUMENT, BUT NOTED THAT HE HAD ANNOUNCED IN JOINT SADAT/KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING SIGNING OF SINAI II THAT HE HAD AGREED TO RENEW UNEF FOR THREE YEARS, I.E. UP TO OCTOBER 1978. HE INSISTED THAT THREE-YEAR UNEF RENEWAL IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH HIS COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT FORD. I URGED THAT HE AGAIN TAKE A LOOK AT THE LETTER. SADAT NOTED THAT FONMIN KAMEL HAD RECENTLY RAISED THE MATTER WITH HIM AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT, ON BASIS STUDY OF SINAI II DOCUMENTS MADE BY MFA LEGAL COUNSELLOR NABIL ELARABY, GOE HAS THE RIGHT NOT TO RENEW UNEF MADATE IN OCTOBER 1978 OR AT ANYTIME THEREAFTER THAT IT DECIDES TO DO SO. I SAID DID NOT WISH TO GET INTO LEGAL DEBATE, BUT I THOUGHT OTHERS WOULD READ THE LETTER DIFFERENTLY. IN ANY CASE, THE ISSUE WAS BASICALLY ONE OF AVOIDING PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE EXPIRY OF SINAI II WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, SIMPLY WORKS AGAINST EGYPTIAN INTERESTS.

8. SADAT GOT THE POINT, BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT. HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH, IN TERMS OF HIS ARAB AUDIENCE, IT IS BETTER IF THE USG "PRESSES" UPON HIM. HENCE, HIS SUGGESTION THAT USG ISSUE STATEMENT ON DURATION OF SINAI II. HE ADDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED. AS WE KNEW, HE HAS CHOSEN HIS COURSE AND WILL ABIDE BY IT. DESPITE HIS REFERENCE TO AN OCTOBER EXPIRY DATE, WHICH HE AGAIN DESCRIBED AS "HARRASSING TACTICS" FOR THE ISRAELIS, HE CLAIMED NOT EVEN TO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HE WILL DO IF BY OCTOBER THERE IS NO MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON THE PEACE FRONT. BUT HE INSISTED HE WILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. EILTS. UNQUOTE

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## Message Attributes

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